

Evaluate Your Current Classroom Library

Check your current book inventory for damaged or necessary replacement copies. Then use the checklist below to determine the needs of your classroom collection of print materials (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.) and their use. Read each question and circle **yes** or **no**.

- YES NO** 1. Is there a minimum of 8 to 15 books per student?
- YES NO** 2. Is one new book per student added each year?
- YES NO** 3. Is there a balance between the fiction and non-fiction books?
- YES NO** 4. Have 30%–50% of the books been published in the last 5–10 years?
- YES NO** 5. Do the materials reflect the range of reading levels represented in the classroom, so that all students can find books that are appropriate to their independent reading level?
- YES NO** 6. Do the books reflect cultural and linguistic diversity?
- YES NO** 7. Do the books represent a wide variety of genres and types: picture books, chapter books, poetry, folktales, joke books, historical fiction, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, biography, classics, series, multicultural, nonfiction, etc.?
- YES NO** 8. Are the books selected for their quality and reader appeal, both in interest and reading level?
- YES NO** 9. Are the books attractive and in good condition?
- YES NO** 10. Are there multiple copies of popular titles, so that students can read books together?
- YES NO** 11. Do the students have voice in recommending books for the collection?
- YES NO** 12. Does the library contain a variety of materials: books, magazines, catalogs, listening center with books-on-tape, computer and computer software, art supplies and writing paper to respond to reading, etc.?
- YES NO** 13. Are the materials accessible to the students?
- YES NO** 14. Are the books categorized and arranged in a logical and clear manner: authors, genre, themes, series, topics, new books read-alouds, award winners, etc.?

- YES NO** 15. Does the organization promote the reading of different genres, authors, and types of materials?
- YES NO** 16. Is there easy-to-read and highly visible signage to aid the students in finding materials?
- YES NO** 17. Does the organization and signage invite browsing and use?
- YES NO** 18. Are many of the books arranged with their covers facing outward?
- YES NO** 19. Is there a display area to highlight books and other materials and are the displays changed frequently?
- YES NO** 20. Is the classroom library weeded of old, tattered, and worn books on a regular basis?
- YES NO** 21. Is there a management system for checking out materials and monitoring their return?
- YES NO** 22. Is the classroom library located in one area of the room or are the reading materials and reading areas dispersed throughout the room?
- YES NO** 23. Are the reading areas defined with rugs or furniture arrangements?
- YES NO** 24. Is there an area set aside for quiet reading?
- YES NO** 25. Does the quiet reading area provide alternative seating: beanbag pillows, soft cushions, rocking or easy chair, sofa, loft, etc.?
- YES NO** 26. Are the students encouraged to use the classroom library for reading materials throughout the school day?
- YES NO** 27. Are students provided chunks of time to read for a variety of purposes throughout the school day: for pleasure, for information, to perform a task?

Tally your responses: YES _____ NO _____

If you answered YES to less than 25 questions, begin highlighting areas for enhancing your classroom library to promote literacy growth. Then call us and let us help you!